

REMARKS

Initially, the Examiner is thanked for issuing a new Office Action which more clearly identified which claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 3,968,647 to Boudigues (claims 1-3, 8, and 9).

Applicants request entry of the claim amendments and consideration of the comments set forth in the Amendment filed on July 17, 2003. The Amendment, together with this Reply is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 1, 2003. In particular, the Amendment filed on July 17, 2003 canceled claims 8 and 9, and explained several distinctions between the claimed flow machine and the power plant shown in Figure 6 of Boudigues.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-7 and 19 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the July 17, 2003 Amendment.

Applicants note that the drawing figures have been revised to replace the German-language terms with English-language terms.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this submission, or regarding the application in general, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below in order to expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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